

Application No.: 10/020,401

Docket No.: 21547-00287-US

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

11. (currently amended) An elongate support element for a replacement structure for the human body, the support element ~~including~~ comprising:

plural seats penetrating a surface on the elongate support element and enabling the support element to be applied to implants and/or to spacers on said implants, center axes of each of the seats connecting with center axes of the implants so that to meet a fixed accuracy of fit requirements result,

wherein the support element ~~is made of~~ comprises a homogeneous material, and

wherein a wall of each of the plural seats is formed directly from ~~comprises~~ the homogeneous support element material, and

wherein the plural seats are arranged to prevent communication between the surface and an opposing surface on the elongate support element through the plural seats.

12. (currently amended) An elongate supporting element according to Claim ~~13~~ 11, wherein each seat wall has a surface ground ~~directly~~ in the homogeneous material.

13. (currently amended) An elongate support element according to Claim ~~13~~ 11, wherein a material strength around each seat has essentially ~~the a~~ same material strength as the ~~rest a remaining portion~~ of the support element material.

14. (currently amended) An elongate support element according to Claim ~~13~~ 11, wherein each seat wall ~~is formed directly from~~ comprises the support element material ~~without~~, said each seat wall being free of intermediate layers of material compositions or and material alterations.

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15. (currently amended) An elongate support element according to Claim ~~13~~11, wherein each seat wall ~~has the~~comprises material having a same chemical composition as the rest of the remaining portion of the support element material.

16. (currently amended) ~~Method~~A method for producing a support element, the method comprising:

forming at least one recess directly in a blank material ~~of a blank~~ in conjunction with the production of a dental product from the blank in milling equipment,

wherein said forming at least one recess avoids forming a through hole in the blank material; and

using said at least one recess as a seat in the product, wherein said product is a support element included in a tooth replacement structure, and the seat meets set accuracy of fit requirements for application to implants located in the human body and/or to spacers on said implants.

17. (currently amended) Method according to Claim ~~18~~16, wherein said seat is formed in the support element using milling equipment which is fed milling coordinates information in the form of milling coordinates data, provided by computer equipment and derived from identification data and supplementary data fed to the computer equipment.

18. (currently amended) Method according to Claim ~~18~~16, wherein said seat is formed in said support element using milling equipment which is fed integrated milling data relating to the support element design and seat design and the seat positions in the support element.

19. (new) The method of claim 16, wherein said forming at least one recess avoids a need for the presence of any seat material which is not integral with the blank material.